

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition ~~according to claim 1~~ comprising a liposome formulated with at least one polypeptide, wherein the at least one polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO : 2, wherein the liposome comprises a bacterial phospholipid, and wherein the composition is capable of inducing an immune response against *Neisseria meningitidis*.
3. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein the at least one polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO : 2.
4. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein the at least one polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO : 2.
5. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a liposome formulated with a polypeptide comprising an immunogenic fragment comprising of at least 15-10 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO : 2, wherein the liposome comprises a bacterial phospholipid, and wherein the composition is capable of inducing an immune response against *Neisseria meningitidis*.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~claim~~ claim 2, wherein said at least one isolated polypeptide is selected from:

a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 wherein the N-terminal methionine at residue 1 is deleted; and

a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the secretory amino acid sequence is deleted.

8.-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a liposome formulated with a chimeric polypeptide that comprises two or more immunogenic fragments of a polypeptide, which polypeptide ~~comprises~~ consists of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO : 2, wherein each immunogenic fragment ~~is comprises~~ at least 45-10 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2, and wherein the two or more immunogenic fragments are linked to form the chimeric polypeptide, wherein the liposome is a bacterial phospholipid, and wherein said composition is capable of inducing an immune response against *Neisseria meningitidis*.

12. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~claim~~ claim 2, wherein the composition comprises at least two polypeptides wherein each of the at least two polypeptide-polypeptides comprises an amino acid sequence at least ~~80%~~ 90% identical to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO : 2, and wherein the at least two polypeptides are linked to form a chimeric polypeptide.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~claim~~
~~13~~ any one of claims 2, 5, and 11, wherein ~~said liposome comprises a~~ the bacterial phospholipid
is extracted from *E. coli*, *N. meningitidis*, or *N. lactamica*.

15. – 16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~claim~~
~~13~~ claim 2, wherein said liposome further comprises at least one adjuvant selected from Lipid A,
monophosphoryl lipid A (MPLA), a lipopolysaccharide, and a cytokine.

18. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~claim~~
~~13~~ claim 2, wherein said liposome further comprises 0 to 25% cholesterol.

19. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to any
one of claims ~~1, 5, 7, 11, and 12~~, 5, and 11, wherein said composition further comprises a
pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for inducing an immune response against
N. meningitidis, in a host, comprising administering to said host an ~~immunogenic~~, effective
amount of ~~a~~ the pharmaceutical composition according to ~~claim~~ any one of claims 2, 5, and 11
to elicit ~~an~~ the immune response.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing or treating a *N.*
meningitidis infection, said method comprising administering to a host in need thereof a
prophylactic or therapeutic amount of ~~a~~ the pharmaceutical composition according to ~~claim~~ any
one of claims 2, 5, and 11.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of ~~meningitidis-meningitis and or meningococemia~~ caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* in a host, comprising administering to said host an effective amount of ~~a~~ the pharmaceutical composition according to ~~claim~~ any one of claims 2, 5, and 11.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 20, wherein said host is a mammal.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 24, wherein said ~~host-mammal~~ is a human.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 25, wherein said ~~host-human~~ is an adult human.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 20 wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered in unit dosage form of about 0.001 to 100 µg/kg (polypeptide weight/body weight) with an interval of about 1 to 6 weeks between immunizations.

28.-33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims ~~+2~~-5, 7, 11, and 12, wherein said polypeptide is capable of eliciting antibodies that are bactericidal.

35. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims ~~+2~~-5, 7, 11, and 12,

wherein the composition is capable of eliciting antibodies that bind to *N. meningitidis* of any one of serogroup A, B, and C.

36. (New) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 5 wherein the immunogenic fragment comprises contiguous amino acids 108-125 of SEQ ID NO:2.

37. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36 wherein the composition further comprises a second immunogenic fragment, said second immunogenic fragment comprising contiguous amino acids 68-80 of SEQ ID NO:2.

38. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 11 wherein one of the two or more immunogenic fragments comprises contiguous amino acids 108-125 of SEQ ID NO:2.

39. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 11 wherein one of the two or more immunogenic fragments comprises contiguous amino acids 108-125 of SEQ ID NO:2 and one immunogenic fragment comprises contiguous amino acids 68-80 of SEQ ID NO:2.